

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-05

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:HGROOM:BB
APPROVED BY S/NM:JLINNEMANN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

REF: J. LEE-J. LINNEMANN TELECON OF 3/30/78

THE PERTINENT SUBJECT MATTER REFERRED TO IN REF TELECON
COMES IN FIRST THREE PARAGRAPHS UNDER HEADING QUOTE OTHER
OBSTACLES END QUOTE IN THE REPORT AND READS AS FOLLOWS:

1) THERE ARE OTHER OBSTACLES THAT ARE RESTRICTING PRO-
GRAM SUCCESS. ACCORDING TO US OFFICIALS THE MOST
IMPORTANT OF THESE IS CORRUPTION IN SOUTH AMERICAN GOVERN-
MENTS. THEY SAID THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE PRINCIPAL
TRAFFICKING COUNTRY, COLOMBIA, WHERE CORRUPTION IS PRESENT
AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND PLACES IN THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING
THE JUDICIARY AND THE POLICE. HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS
HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SITUATION WITH GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA
OFFICIALS, BUT NOTE THAT IT STILL GREATLY HAMPERS PROGRAM
SUCCESS.

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2) CORRUPTION IS ENCOURAGED BY THE ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF
MONEY INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING. A DEA SUMMARY OF THE DRUG
SITUATION IN COLOMBIA STATES THAT US RETAIL SALES OF

MARIJUANA AND COCAINE PROCESSED OR GROWN IN COLOMBIA ARE
ESTIMATED AT DOLLARS 6 BILLION ANNUALLY. ILLEGAL DRUG
TRAFFICKING REPORTEDLY RETURNS AN ESTIMATED DOLLARS ONE

BILLION TO THE COLOMBIA ECONOMY EVERY YEAR.

3) THE ENORMOUS PROFITS THAT CAN BE MADE FROM TRAFFICKING IN COCAINE CAN ALSO BE ILLUSTRATED BY TRACING PRICES PAID FOR THE DRUG IN VARIOUS STAGES, FROM THE COCA LEAF PRICE IN BOLIVIA TO THE STREET PRICE OF COCAINE IN THE UNITED STATES. THE BOLIVIAN FARMER SELLS THE QUANTITY OF COCA LEAVES NECESSARY TO MAKE ONE POUND OF COCAINE FOR ABOUT DOLLARS 60. THESE LEAVES ARE CONVERTED TO COCAINE-BASE HAVING A VALUE OF ABOUT DOLLARS 1,000. CONVERSION TO COCAINE, THE NEXT STEP, INCREASES THE VALUE TO OVER DOLLARS 2,000 IN BOLIVIA. BY THE TIME THE COCAINE REACHES THE STREETS OF A CITY IN THE UNITED STATES, THE BOLIVIAN FARMER'S DOLLARS 60 IN COCA LEAVES COSTS THE USERS OVER DOLLARS 100,000. COOPER

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Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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